



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Descendants of America's First Soldiers

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THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE A GLOBAL WAR AGAINST ENGLAND *By Bertrand Jost*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - COMPATRIOT BERTRAND JOST

I was born in 1968 in Sfax, Tunisia where my father was working as an expatriate, on a French Government contract. In 1970, the family returned to Strasbourg, France where I grew up. Strasbourg is part of Alsace, this French region at the German border which was so often the prize of Franco-German wars. Alsace is also the region who gave birth to Bartholdi, the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty. In August 1991, I came to America to study Aerospace Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. By the time my Masters was over in 1993, the end of the Cold War made it difficult to find a job in this field. Therefore I moved to New York where I started a career in Finance. In May 2001, I married Elizabeth Madigan, an Irish-American girl from New York. Part of the wedding took place in New York and part of it took place in Alsace, in the very village where my grandfather was hiding from the Nazis in WWII before being liberated by the US Army. Back then my family befriended a US officer, Colonel Evans from Montclair, NJ. This is why when I came to America my grandmother told me: "Tell the Americans that we love them very much because we remember what they did for us."

After living in NYC and Mamaroneck, Elizabeth and I moved to Westchester in 2004. Elizabeth gave me two beautiful children: Guillaume born on 3/10/05 and Sophie born on 8/12/06. Hopefully both of them will continue the proud heritage of the family by joining one day the SARs and the DARs.

My forefather Andreas Fritsch was born on December 17, 1748 in Altenstadt, Alsace, France, a garrison town located on the German border. His mother was Barbara Hohl and his father Georg Fritsch. In 1748, the War of the Austrian Succession came to an end and Georg had just come back from the front in Flanders where he was a captain of an irregular Company of scouts. The job of the scouts was to maintain the lines of communication between the army headquarters and the different units on the field. Fritsch had the honor to serve under the Marshal de Saxe, one of the most prominent military leaders of the time who had just won a series of victories against the British throughout the Flanders campaign. Now that the war was over, irregular units were no longer needed and a few days after the birth of Andreas, on December 25, 1748, Fritsch's Company of Scouts was disbanded. Georg probably left Altenstadt to seek a post elsewhere but the family soon returned since Andreas grew up there.

On Feb 20, 1771, Andreas was 22 years old and was still living in Altenstadt when he enlisted in the Regiment of La Marck (a German regiment in French service). His physical description says that he is "5 feet 2 thumbs [old French system equivalent to 5'6"]⁽¹⁾, blond hair and eyebrows, brown eyes, oval face and of catholic religion."

He signed up for 8 years and since the younger the recruit, the higher the sign-up bonus, he claimed to be 16 years old at the time of enlistment (which was the minimum age allowed to enlist.) The regiment was made of two battalions of about 5 companies each. Each Company was 80-120 men strong, and was bearing the name of its commanding captain. Upon enlistment, Andreas was sent to Uzès in southern France where the regiment was stationed and a few days later, on March 1, 1771, Andreas was assigned to the Company of Captain de Wimpffen as a fusilier (foot soldier). The same year the Regiment went to Grenoble, in September 1773 to Valenciennes on the Belgian border and in October 1774 to Longwy in Eastern France. That year French King Louis XV died to be replaced by his grandson Louis XVI. On March 1, 1776 (exactly five years after his first assignment) Andreas Fritsch was promoted to corporal. The following year, the regiment moved to the nearby town of Sarrelouis. It was there that it received the news of the war with England.

On Feb 6, 1778 King Louis XVI decided to recognize the independence of the United States and to support its efforts to free the thirteen colonies from British occupation. England responded to the announcement by immediately recalling its ambassador to France and in June it began its attacks on French ships. France and England were now at war. Louis XVI immediately sent a fleet along with regiments to the West Indies that were to operate both in the Carribeans and in the United States. Yet, in spite of such reinforcements, his main efforts during 1778 and 1779 were focused on preparing an invasion of England. Part of that effort consisted of a build up of troops on the northwestern coast of France and La Marck was part of it. In March 1778, the regiment was sent to Lille and in July to Saint-Lo, Normandy. At that point the ministers and generals hesitated and the invasion was postponed until the following year. Therefore La Marck was recalled back to eastern France. While in March 1779 Andreas Fritsch renewed his enlistment for another four years, the invasion preparation resumed. In July 1779 the regiment was again sent to the channel shore first to Calais and then to Boulogne. Unfortunately that summer, the French and Spanish fleet sent toward England did not succeed in engaging the British navy in the Channel and the invasion which was by then perceived as a logistical nightmare was abandoned. After this failure, France's efforts would be fully geared toward fighting the British overseas, everywhere in the world where both countries had settlements and allies. These theaters included the

MAY 12, 2007, BOARD OF MANAGERS ANNUAL MEETING, BEECHES, ROME, NY



Saratoga Battle Chapter 2007 recipient of the Addams Cup
Left to Right - Richard Fullam, Jonathan Goebel, Peter Goebel, Richard Saunders, Ray Goold, Daniel Mead, William Loveday



Eagle Scout Awards - Buffalo Chapter 3rd. Saratoga Battle Chapter 2nd
Left to Right - Carl Berg, Buffalo, President Peter Goebel, Richard Saunders, Saratoga



Patriot Award Recipient
Left to Right - Robert Haff, President Binghamton Chapter, Roger Cargill, Recipient



Logan Cheek, Eagle Scout State Chairman Presenting check award to Eagle Scout Winner Alexander Spilane

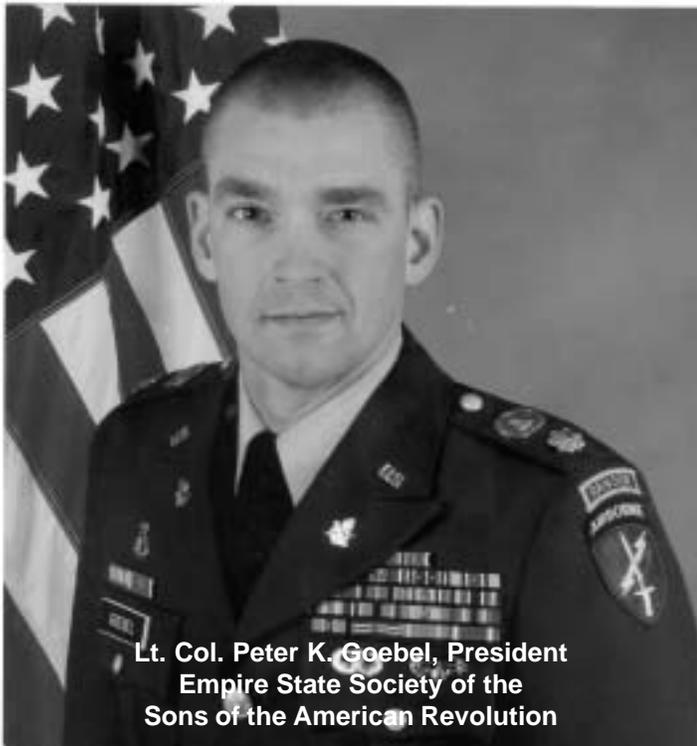


Peter Goebel, ESSAR President presenting Patriot Medal to Compatriot Roger Cargill



Eagle Scout Winner- Left to Right - Karin Spilane, Logan Cheek, Alexander Spilane, Michael Spilane

Note of Thanks: As I was unable to attend this meeting, Rodney Andrews, President Columbia - Mid Hudson Chapter was kind enough to take these photos for me. Many thanks Rod. Hank Croteau, Editor



**Lt. Col. Peter K. Goebel, President
Empire State Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution**

Compatriots, I hope that you are all well and working for our country. I have remained quite busy on your behalf.

On 9 through 11 March, I was pleased to be able to attend the 88th Annual Conference of the New York State Children of the American Revolution in Poughkeepsie, New York and continue to promote the goals which we have in common with the Children of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. has another great President's Project this year and we look forward to supporting the Project this year and every year. Congratulations to Schuyler Van Buren on his election as N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. State President. Thank you to all of those individuals who work so hard with the Children of the American Revolution.

The 21st of April was a momentous occasion in Upstate New York as Sons, Daughters, and Children of the American Revolution joined together in Plattsburgh, New York from throughout New York and New England for the Chapter Institution Ceremony and Charter Day Celebration Dinner of the Valcour Battle Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. A very special part of the day occurred that afternoon as all in attendance gathered to present wreaths at the grave marking ceremony of Patriot Adoniram Parrott at the historic Riverside Cemetery in Plattsburgh, arranged by President Arnold Fallon of the Vermont Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

On 28 April, I joined with the Compatriots of the Binghamton Chapter in Binghamton, New York for a luncheon meeting and to honor several deserving recipients of Sons of the American Revolution awards.

On 24 May, I joined President General Nathan White, First Lady Wanda White, Maryland Compatriot Doug Stuart, Emma Stuart, and former Historian General Richard Sage at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York to award the National Society Sons of the American Revolution Award to Cadet Matthew Dembowski for the graduating cadet demonstrating significant

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achievement and excellence in the field of United States History. We enjoyed the Superintendent's Awards Review and lunch in the Cadet Mess Hall, as well as a wonderful tour arranged by the instructors from the Department of History.

On June 15, the United States Merchant Marine Academy was the scene of the initial award of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution saber for excellence in United States History. I was honored to present this naval officer saber to Midshipman Matthew Carter from South Carolina. He will work in maritime operations at Charleston Harbor after graduation, as well as be commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve. A luncheon overlooking Long Island Sound was another highlight of this day.

Thanks to all those Compatriots for their hard work with the newly forming Valcour Battle Chapter and Schoharie Leatherstocking Chapter. Let's all keep up the hard work of recruiting new members, working with the DAR and C.A.R., and starting new chapters. It is vital to our existence.

My special thanks also go to all those North Atlantic District Compatriots who donated funds to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage in Louisville, and to those Compatriots who returned the postage paid cards showing support for the SAR and for all of the SAR programs. All Compatriots should donate as they are able.

Congratulations to the Saratoga Battle Chapter for being the first Chapter in the ESSAR to join the Empire State Society and the North Atlantic District (first District in NSSAR to donate), in the donation of at least \$ 1,000 to the building of the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. This is quite appreciated and is very noteworthy.

I look forward to continue serving with the wonderful Compatriots of the Empire State Society. We must continue to endeavor to act properly towards all those who, like us, are descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution. I am reminded of the words of Captain Joseph H. Nicholson, of Baltimore who stated, "Let us act with one heart, and one hand; let us show to an admiring world, that however we may differ among ourselves about some of our internal concerns, yet in the great cause of our country, the American people are animated by one soul and one spirit". We owe nothing less to those who gave us a great nation.

Let us never stop working for the United States.

Peter K. Goebel

State President

Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

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US of course but also the West Indies, Africa, the Indian Ocean and India. With the help of Spain, Holland and the American insurgents, the goal was to weaken England everywhere in the world so that it would recognize the independence of the US and evacuate its territories.

An army under Lieutenant-General Rochambeau was sent to the United States in March 1780. In March 1781, a powerful French fleet under Admiral de Grasse was sent to the West Indies with the goal of supporting the allied armies in the Islands and in the US. At the same time, another fleet under Admiral Suffren was sent to the Indian Ocean to launch a counterattack in India where all French posts had been captured by Britain in 1778. While waiting for Suffren, the French army of the East Indies was regrouping in the island of Mauritius ("Île de France"), the main French base in the Indian Ocean. The first reinforcements arrived in this island in 1780 and 1781. In fact, during this period, French regiments were being sent on all fronts worldwide in an effort to support what had become a global war against England. It was in this context that the La Marck Regiment was assigned to a convoy of reinforcements bound for Mauritius, where an expedition to India was under preparation. The Marquis de Bussy had been given the mission to organize French forces in Mauritius and command the army that would operate in India with the support of Suffren's fleet. The La Marck Regiment was to leave from Brest in December 1781. By then Andreas Fritsch was a sergeant, since he had been promoted on May 4, 1780, after nine years of service. His company had changed captains several times and was now under the command of Captain Freytag. Along with him, Andreas had three other family members also serving in the ranks of La Marck. There was Philippe who enlisted in 1773, Jean-Baptiste who enlisted in 1775 and Jean who enlisted just before the departure in November 1781.⁽²⁾ Jean-Baptiste was part of the Hener Company, while Philippe and Jean were with Andreas in the Freytag Company. As the oldest soldier in the family, Andreas was the mentor of the Fritsch clan in the regiment. In addition to the Regiment of La Marck (two battalions) the boarding troops included also one battalion of the Aquitaine Regiment and one battalion of the Royal Roussillon Regiment. In all these represented more than 1500 foot soldiers (4 companies of artillery of the Besançon Regiment had already been sent in October.)

The convoy under the command of M. de Peinier left Brest on December 10, but two days later it came under attack by the British and was dispersed. Most ships managed to carry on but thirteen to fourteen transports had been taken. After eight months of sailing, the convoy arrived in Mauritius on July 29, 1782. By then

the troops on board were in a poor state and 1,032 of the soldiers had to go to the hospitals upon landing, all afflicted with serious diseases. Their clothing had suffered much during the crossing and many had died at sea. The Roll of the La Marck Regiment shows that in Andreas' Freytag Company, a few men died at sea in the spring of 1782, and a few more in July just before arrival. Under such conditions, the expedition to India had to be postponed until the men had a chance to recuperate. In the meantime, in India, Suffren had started the campaign on a successful note. After a naval battle in February 1782, 1,500 French troops landed in Porto-Novo near Cuddalore in Southern India and joined forces with a local Indian leader. In August they sailed to nearby Ceylan and



*Admiral Suffren,
who headed the French fleet in the Indian Ocean.*

captured the post of Trincomalee. Meanwhile in Mauritius, the situation got worse before it got better. The month of September was particularly bleak with the epidemics reaching its peak. By September 29, there were 2,700 men in the hospital and 62 officers all dangerously ill. The few men who stayed aboard the ships were breathing some foul-smelling air. On October 5, the number of sick was still at 1,800 and on the 15th, Bussy accounted that since the beginning of the epidemic 369 soldiers and sailors and 79 officers had died: a total of 448 deaths. From this moment the wave of sickness declined and disappeared completely in the middle of November. The roll of La Marck shows that the Freytag Company had lost 10-20 men during that time (about 15% of its strength.) In the Fritsch Family, Jean, the youngest of the four didn't make it and died in Mauritius on Sep 19, 1782.

By November, the preparation of the Indian expedition had resumed. Bussy regrouped his men within a few chosen units and on December 18, he embarked four infantry battalions and four artillery companies amounting to 2,275 men. Both Battalions of the La Marck Regiment were on board including Andreas, Philippe and Jean-Baptiste Fritsch. The expedition was at sea when Andreas reenlisted for four years on February 20, 1783. Bussy first sailed to Trincomalee, Ceylan and from there he went on March 14, 1783 to Cuddalore, India where he arrived on the evening of the 16th with seven warships, three frigates and twelve transports. The landing of troops took place during the night and that of food supplies, equipment and ammunition in the following days. In Cuddalore, Bussy found a garrison made of French soldiers and local Indian allies, called Cipoys. At that time, further south some of the French troops who had landed there the previous year were raiding the Malabar Coast, but in the north Bussy knew that the British were not far and he decided to prepare for the defense of Cuddalore. Soon, he received intelligence that a powerful British army intended to move toward

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him from Madras, the main regional city located a hundred miles to the north. This army amounted to 19,000 men of which, 4,000 were Europeans while he himself had at his disposal 3,500 Europeans and 4,350 local Indian troops. In addition, the British were supported by a fleet under Admiral Hugues including 18 warships and 22 transports. It was clear that the British wanted to besiege Cuddalore the same way the Franco-Americans had done at Yorktown: seal it from both land and sea. To prevent this, Bussy called Suffren to his help.

Yet, unlike the allies at Yorktown, the British in India were indecisive and moved slowly despite their strength. In April and May, the Franco-Indian troops that were raiding the coast took Voloze, Benor and were besieging Mangalore while the British only started to move south from Madras at the end of April with their land and sea forces. By June 2, the British army finally setup camp two miles away from the French defenses before Cuddalore. Getting then closer, it moved on the right and came to position itself one mile away

from the French left flank. On the 8th of June the English fleet came to cast anchor to the south of Cuddalore, at the mouth of the small river of Porto-Novo; it unloaded 800 Hanovrian troops, supplies, war ammunition for heavy artillery, mortars, bombs and other items, all this equipment for the siege of Cuddalore. In the following days, the French strengthened their defenses before the city. On the 12th, the battlefield was set and the battalion of the Aquitaine Regiment was moved forward to protect some artillery. In the battle that was about to begin, the three Fritsch soldiers would be part of the first battalion of La Marck. At dawn on the 13th, the French right was attacked and heavily shelled but on the left the attack was light and the battalion of Aquitaine was sufficient to defend it. Nevertheless Bussy brought the Regiment of la Marck in second line to support it. Several columns of British Cipoys having given the impression of wanting to turn our right, Bussy sent there the second battalion of la Marck to oppose it and as soon as it appeared it stopped them without even firing. On the Right, the enemy moved toward the "post of Benth", the French forward position in that sector. It was under the command of M. Benth and defended by the Austrasie Regiment. To support the position, Bussy had ordered the first battalion of la Marck to march forward. In the process, it repelled a column of Europeans which had come out of the wood located on the left of the post of Benth and which gave us a heavy fire. The Regiment of Austrasie moved ahead of this post as well in the direction where most of the enemy army was gathered. At this critical moment, Bussy had called for some cavalry support from his Indian allies, but they never came, arguing that they had lost too many horses. After an hour of the utmost

resistance from the French, the Brigade of Austrasie and the first battalion of La Marck were forced to retreat in their first position. With 3,000 Europeans and 8,000 Cipoys, the British continued their assault on Benth which was defended by 1,300 Frenchmen. At around noon, after eight hours of resistance the post finally fell after M. Benth himself had been killed. After this assault, the troops on both sides were exhausted by the heavy heat and the rest of the day was spent shelling each other until slowly the fighting died down and the two armies encamped on the battlefield. The French had lost 15 officers and 25 were wounded, including M. de La Marck himself, commander of the La Marck Regiment. Since Colonel Zanthier had also died during this campaign it was Freytag who by then had been appointed Lieutenant-Colonel who received

the overall command of the Regiment. I have no information about casualties among the ranks but according to the roll, it seems that the Freytag Company reported no death that day. Nevertheless, the three Fritsch soldiers had fought for eight hours at the heart of the action.⁽³⁾ On the other side, the British had paid a

heavy price for the fall of the French advanced position. They had lost 64 officers (killed or wounded) and 2,000 Cipoys (no information about British rankers).

The next day, on June 14, Bussy decided to regroup his troops inside Cuddalore and to reinforce the defenses of this poorly built city. On the 15th, Suffren's fleet of 15 sails finally appeared on the horizon. The British fleet that was blocking Cuddalore immediately set off and although it outnumbered the French, it decided to flee toward Madras. Suffren then stopped at Cuddalore, took aboard 1200 French soldiers to be used as marines and chased after the British. On the 20th, he forced them to a fight (his fifth in Indian waters) and after an indecisive engagement, the British permanently fled to Madras, not to return. The siege of Cuddalore had been broken off. Suffren returned to Cuddalore and brought back the troops to Bussy with another 1,100 of his own marines. By then, the British land army was quite demoralized by their failure to take Cuddalore in spite of their greater number. The commander, Stuart, was even dismissed by the British governor. This encouraged Bussy to venture a sortie on the 25th of June. 800 Europeans (about eight companies) and 500 Cipoys were to participate under the command of M. de Damas. Damas assaulted the main enemy stronghold with three columns. Unfortunately the attack was launched a little too early and only one of the three columns reached the stronghold where it killed many enemies and seized two flags before being forced to retreat. The French lost 2 officers, three wounded and several prisoners including de Damas himself. The company of Andreas and Philippe Fritsch participated in the op-



*The Naval battle of Negapatam (6 July 1782).
One of the major naval battle between France and England in the Indian Ocean*

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eration since the roll of the Freytag Company reports one dead: "Heinrich Heinen. [enlisted on] 10 Nov 1776. Killed on June 25, 1783." One other man of the company was reported "killed on July 25, 1783" which is perhaps a mistake for June 25, since the fighting had stopped by July. After this operation, the British started to think of retreating since diseases were taking a heavy toll on the troops. Bussy received intelligence of this plan and thought about falling back on his enemies once the retreat had started. Yet on June 30 a British frigate brought news of the peace treaty signed in Versailles on January 20 and the British communicated it swiftly to the French. The allies had won. The United States of America had gained its independence and the fighting could stop. In exchange for its heavy contribution to the war effort against England (close to 20,000 troops and 40,000 sailors sent on all continents with much cash and equipment given to American insurgents along the years) France received little for itself, except perhaps the most important: America's eternal gratitude. In the following centuries the new country would prove often that it was not thankless and in turn, would come to the rescue of its oldest ally, reaffirming each time the value of the bond of friendship established in 1778.

After the cease fire, Bussy's troops stayed in India for another few months during which time a few more men died in the Freytag Company. All in, the Company probably lost around 30 per cent of its men during the campaign. In late 1783, the La Marck Regiment sailed back to Mauritius where it stayed for two more years. It returned to France in 1785 where it landed on April 24. From there, it went back to Strasbourg, Alsace where Philippe was discharged.⁽⁴⁾ As for Andreas he stayed in the regiment and kept reenlisting every four years. On Jan 7, 1788 he was promoted to Fourier (roughly QM Sergeant, the highest NCO rank.) As a "commoner" Andreas could expect little more for his career but fortunately for him the French Revolution was not far off and the time of equality among all Frenchmen was at hand. In the meantime that year of 1788, Andreas met a girl in the small Alsatian village of Wingersheim. Her name was Brigitte Felden and was the daughter of a humble day worker. By then Andreas was forty years old, with a substantial adventurous past behind him and it was not hard for him to seduce this peasant girl. One thing leading to another, on February 5, 1789 Pierre Fritsch was born out of wedlock. Andreas wanted to do the right thing and marry Brigitte but in those days simple soldiers were not allowed to marry (only aristocratic officers could.) To marry Brigitte, Andreas had to request approval from a superior officer of the Regiment which he obtained (from Sir de Haack) and when he married Brigitte on April 27, 1790, the priest specifically wrote in the marriage record that the appropriate military authorization was obtained. Andreas did not have much time with Brigitte as the Revolution was starting and his regiment was sent south in January 1791 to quell civil unrest. The same year, the new constitutive government renamed all regiments to be in line with republican principles and the La Marck Regiment which had operated under this name for a century became the 77th Infantry Regiment. Toward the end of the year, Andreas obtained a leave to see his family and on August 24, 1792 a second son was born, André Fritsch, Jr. This respite did not last long and Andreas soon had to go back to southern France and after a while to southwestern France where the royalist insurgency was taking momentum. On November 1, 1792, Andreas finally became an officer: "Sub-Lieutenant", after 21 years of service. Four weeks later, on November 27, 1792 the aging "young officer" was appointed to the task of "Adjutant-Major" (senior

warrant officer) which consisted of training young recruits. This was to be the last entry in the service record of Andreas Fritsch and he disappeared soon afterwards.

In 1804, a military investigation was launched to obtain a death certificate for Andreas Fritsch "who died in battle at Les sables [a town near la Rochelle] in 1796 or 1797." The war ministry answered that there was no trace of Andreas Fritsch in any regimental record after Nov. 27, 1792. Given that the biggest battle in Les Sables occurred in 1793, it is probably during that battle that Andreas ended up MIA. For the record André, Jr, my forefather, led a humble life of day worker in Wingersheim, but his brother Pierre was enlisted in 1808 in Napoleon's imperial army. He participated in the battle of Wagram in 1809 and in the defense of Dantzic which was besieged by the allies during the whole year of 1813. At the end of it, he became POW and was sent to Russia in captivity. He returned in 1814, was discharged and became an Inn Keeper in Truchtersheim, Alsace. In 1857 he was rewarded with the medal of Sainte-Hélène. Thus ends the story of the three generations of soldiers of the Fritsch family. ■

(1) In another document it is stated that he was 5'10" (2) All of them have on their record: "native of Altenstadt, Alsace, France." I could not find their birth certificates in the town's parish records but my research indicates that all the Fritsch of Altenstadt were related. (3) The Freytag Company is clearly registered as part of La Marck's first battalion, however the lack of casualties in its ranks that day could indicate that it fought in second line or that it was dispatched to the second battalion who was less exposed. (4) I don't know the whereabouts of Jean-Baptiste since I did not track the records of the Hener Company.

Sources:

René Chartrand "The French Army in the American War of Independence" - - - Martineau "Bussy et l'Inde française" - - - Roll of the Regiment of La Marck 1776-1786 - - - French military archives, Paris Personal military file of Andreas Fritsch - - Parish records of Altenstadt and Wingersheim, Alsace, France

SAVING ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

Last April, the Oriskany Battle Chapter received a request to participate in a letter writing campaign to save the historic St. Saviour's Church in Maspeth, NY. The church and the land it sits on is threatened by a development company that wished to demolish the church and its surrounding woods and build a 35 to 40 three family homes. The church is a Carpenter Gothic country church build of redwood in 1847 and designed by the prominent architect Richard Upjohn who was the designer of the Trinity Church in New York City. The building was severely damaged by a fire in 1970. This building and grounds together tell the evolution of the town of Maspeth from its earliest days to present time. More importantly, it was part of the site of the Battle of Brooklyn during the Revolution in 1776. Many artifacts from that time period have been found and the remains of soldiers from that battle have been found there. Our Chapter wrote letters to the mayor of New York City, the Governor of New York State, the Borough President, the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Parks and several other dignitaries. Since then, we have received an acknowledgment from the Governor's office and from Carol Ash, the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Parks. She writes that the Bureau endorses the project to save this site and that a long range strategy for community use of the building and the grounds. It appears that through our efforts and thousands of others that this site will be preserved and the resting-places of many of our Revolutionary patriots remain in peaceful slumber on the grounds. *Rev. Terry L. Sheldon, President Oriskany Battle Chapter* ■

Letter to the Editor

Please Note: The opinions expressed in the following letter and attachments are not necessarily shared by the Editor. Anyone wishing to express additional comments for publication, pro or con, may submit them to the Editor with your name and address. Ed.

Dear fellow members,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter. I, like every SAR member, want the best for our Society and no one wants to be a tattletale. But through my eyes we are at a crossroad on two issues. First, there has not been an audit of the Society's "books and records" since the fiscal period ended 1999 and this year's election was "voided" at the Annual Meeting before the ballots were ever counted.

The lack of an audit spans three presidencies. Audit committees are appointed but no audits have, to my knowledge, ever been started much less completed. I know it takes work; as chair of the Bylaw Committee I find little time for the badly needed review and possible update of our Constitution and Bylaws which haven't had more than a small "tweak" since probably 1984. So with the possibility of a lot of work I know it's easy to put off today what can be done tomorrow. But, the books and records need to be looked at and time is of the essence - seven years of records is a lot for anyone to delve into and for anyone to remember what was done "back then" and why. Hopefully, bringing this forward will get the job done either by the existing Audit Committee, a special committee or a contract with an outside vendor.

By resolution, this year's election was "voided" and several items were put in place to hold a new election. Rather than me to try to interpret the resolution I've included a copy of it with this letter in hopes that it will be included somewhere in this newsletter along with applicable bylaws regarding our election process and one stating the procedure on amending our bylaws & prohibiting a resolution from being introduced that violates a bylaw or bylaws regardless of intention. Judge for yourself, but I think this committee is "out of order" because I think our bylaws were "suspended" without approval of us members. To me, a better choice would have been to hold a new election under strict enforcement of existing bylaws.

The choices for president are, under the existing bylaws, limited. So as I see it, we need to elect candidates to VP slots that will be ready to move into the presidency on a rotational basis by region. Currently, we are expecting a lot out of our presidents and past presidents. Bill Woodworth was president for three years and it appears to me he is being "drafted" for at least another year and Peter Goebel has been president for two years and is a candidate for a third year. To me there is no fresh blood and I feel that it is needed now more than ever.

For those of you on the Board who might feel that this letter is a personal attack on you it is not. I, like you, want the best for the Society, and please understand that it is difficult for me to write this. We, and I do not exclude myself, can do better! I ask you, our members, for positive input. Contact your chapter presidents and give them input on how we can best resolve these two issues.

Fraternally yours, Duane Booth, VP-Capital Region

Attachments: May 12, 2007 Resolution

Section of By laws dealing with Annual Elections

May 12, 2007 resolution to:

Void 2007 election & establish a 2007 "election commission"

I hereby move that:

1. The election currently in progress be voided, for reasons about to be enumerated.
2. An election commission be instituted whose purpose it will be to institute a process whereby the officers, managers, and national trustees of the ESSAR for the 2007-2008 year can be elected in a fair, impartial manner in full compliance with the ESSAR Constitution, By-laws, and all relevant federal and state laws.
3. The commission will consist of seven persons, three of whom shall be appointed by Compatriot Peter Goebel and three of whom shall be appointed by William Woodworth. The seventh member shall be a knowledgeable, trustworthy, fair, and impartial person whose presence on the commission is agreeable both to Compatriot Goebel and to Compatriot Woodworth.
4. The commission will operate under the following guidelines and goals:
 - (a) No member of the commission may be a candidate for office in the 2007-2008 year,
 - (b) The members of the commission shall work together in a gentlemanly, cooperative, non-combative manner to assure that the validity and fairness of the election will be above suspicion,
 - (c) The commission shall begin its work expeditiously, but in no case later than June 12, 2007.
 - (d) The commission shall be responsible for sending out proper ballots to all New York State SAR members at least thirty days in advance of the September, 2007, meeting of the ESSAR, at which time the ballots will be counted.
 - (e) **Until** the September, 2007, election, all current officers, managers, and national trustees of the ESSAR shall remain in office,
 - (f) The commission may solicit advice, input, and opinions from any ESSAR Compatriot, but in no case may any candidate for any office initiate any contact with the Commission,
 - (g) The Treasurer is directed to expend such funds as are reasonable, prudent, and necessary for this effort. ■

Section of By laws dealing with Annual Elections

Continued Page 8 Column 1

BYLAWS DEALING WITH ANNUAL ELECTION**SECTION VI
NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND NOMINATIONS**

1. The President, with the approval of the Board of Managers, at the regular meeting of the Board of Managers in November of each year, shall appoint a Nominating Committee including the Chairman. The Committee shall consist of two Past Presidents and three other members of the Board of Managers who are not Past Presidents, giving due recognition to representation by regions. The Committee shall nominate a candidate for each office to be voted for at the Annual Meeting and shall report such nominations to the March meeting of the Board. The Board may accept or reject any nominations made by this committee and shall substitute its own nominations in place of those rejected. 2. Other nominations for any office may be made in writing addressed to the Secretary signed by at least twenty-five members of the Society in good standing, provided that any such nominations to be included on the ballot must be received by the Secretary at least thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting. All written nominations shall, upon request be made available for inspection by any member.

**SECTION VII
BALLOTS**

1. The Board of Managers shall have the right and duty to determine the format of the ballot but the content of the ballot for any election shall be determined by the President with the assistance of the Executive Committee and the Secretary.

2. The Secretary, at least fifteen days before the Annual Meeting, shall mail, by first class mail, to each member of the Society a printed ballot for all offices to be filled.

3. Any member may vote for any other member for any office although such other member was not nominated.

**SECTION VIII
VOTING PERSONALLY OR BY MAIL**

1. Members may vote for officers and managers to be elected at the Annual Meeting either by casting their ballot personally as prescribed in Section X of these by-laws or by mail in accordance with instructions on or with said ballot. 2. Any other resolution or questions to be voted on at the Annual Meeting shall be determined by the vote of those members present thereat.

**SECTION X
INSPECTORS OF ELECTION**

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint three Inspectors of Election. Failure of an Inspector to attend at the opening of the polls shall make his place vacant. Such vacancies shall be filled by the President, and in case none attend, other Inspectors shall be appointed by the President or senior officer present at the meeting.

**SECTION X
ANNUAL ELECTION**

1. The polls for the annual election shall be opened by the President at the opening of the meeting and remain open for one hour thereafter, and until all persons present, entitled and desiring to vote, shall have had opportunity to do so. On the closing of the polls, the Inspectors of Election shall canvass the votes cast and without delay certify to the presiding officer, over their signatures, the result and declare elected the persons receiving a majority of votes.

2. The newly elected officers and members of the Board of Managers shall not hold office until duly sworn in.

3. If for any office no person shall receive a majority of the votes cast, another ballot may be taken for that office at the same meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose as the Society may determine.

Bylaw dealing with changes to existing bylaws

**SECTION XXXI
AMENDMENTS**

The By-Laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of those voting in person or by mail at an Annual Meeting or at a special meeting of the Society called for that purpose; PROVIDED, that such amendment shall have been proposed at a regular or special meeting of the Society at least thirty days prior thereto, or by a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Managers, and a notice setting forth such proposed amendment shall have been mailed to each member of the Society at least fifteen days before the meeting of the Society at which such amendment is to be voted upon. ■

Editor's Note: The preceding letter with attachment 1. May 12, 2007 Resolution and Attachment 2. By laws Dealing with Annual Election were submitted by Compatriot Duane Booth, P O Box 836, New Lebanon, NY 12125

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING



On Saturday, 17 February 2007, at the annual meeting of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution held at the Century House in Latham, New York, G. William Glidden, MAJOR (R) USA and historian for the Valcour Battle Chapter is receiving recognition for dedication and commitment to the education of youth in American History. On the right, the presenter is Richard C. Saunders, Jr., Chairman of the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, Saratoga Battle Chapter.

ROCHESTER CHAPTER



On a bright and sunny Sunday, 6 May, the Rochester Chapter, SAR, was proud to assist the Hanley family in the dedication of a new bronze SAR Patriot marker at the grave of their Patriot ancestor, Winant C. VanDenbergh, in the Village Cemetery in Victor, Ontario County, NY. Seventy-six people attended, including family members, SAR (some in period dress) and DAR members, village elected officials and historians. The Canandaigua American Legion Post #256 provided a color guard and local residents, father and son Bill and Ryan Hobart, played the echo version of Taps to close the ceremony.

Victor Historian, Mrs. Babette Huber, spoke about village history and the importance of maintaining and replacing historically significant grave markers. Ontario County Historian, Compatriot Preston Pierce, used a passage from President Lincoln's First Inaugural Address to remind us of the importance of the day's ceremony in a talk entitled, "The Mystic Chords of Memory Resound Here Still." Revolutionary War reenactor and orator, Capt. Tommy Thompson, spoke about Patriot Winant Van Denbergh's significance to the cause of the Revolution and Compatriot Steve Clarke delivered a report of the specifics of Van Denbergh's Revolutionary War service that included being present at Saratoga for the capture of General Burgoyne. A pleasant social time with refreshments followed the ceremony. The Hanley family had nine direct descendants of Winant Van Denbergh in attendance: 3G-grandchildren Mrs. Donna Hanley Andrews, DAR, Robert Ronald Hanley, Sr., SAR; 4G-grandchildren Mrs. Rebecca Andrews Boland, Robert Ronald Hanley, Jr., Michael Chad Hanley, Sr.; 5G-grandchildren Michael Chad Hanley, Jr., Angela Renee Hanley, Mrs. Jacqueline Wolven Carle, and 6G-grandchild Andrew Jonathan Carle. ■

PHOTO AT LEFT

Donna Hanley Andrews, DAR, and Compatriot Robert Ronald Hanley, Sr., at the SAR marker dedication for their 3G-grandfather, Patriot Winant C. VanDenbergh.

BINGHAMTON CHAPTER NEWS

Chapter Member Presented Patriot Medal Award.

Photo Page 2

At the April 28th meeting of the Binghamton Chapter, ESSAR in front of family and members, Compatriot Roger Darrell Cargill was presented the Patriot Medal, ESSAR's highest award, by the State President, Peter K. Goebel. Besides his long service to the Society both on a Chapter as well as State level since February, 1989, Roger has been active in the Elks; Optimist Club, where he was President of the local chapter, Lt. Governor and Governor and played a large part in establishing the Optimist games; Meals on Wheels; his church's Parish Council, Diocesan Pastoral Council and performs the Liturgical Ministry on three levels.

Also at the April meeting, three medals were awarded. Compatriot Robert Edward Clemons was presented with the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and the Viet Nam War Service Medal. Compatriot Robert Morton Haff was presented the World War II War Service Medal. A talk by Gary Lockwood on "Timepieces and Clocks of the Revolutionary War" concluded the meeting. At this talk, Gary showed slides and displayed examples of clocks of this period.

Chapter Loses Long Time Member

Compatriot Thomas Dewitt Scott, a member of the Binghamton Chapter since January 21 1981, died on February 11th 2007 at the age of 89 in New London, CT. At the time of his death he was living with his son in Groton, CT. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 53 years, Doris Eldred Scott, and second wife, Norma Swingle Scott. Tom was a graduate of Binghamton Central High School and a veteran of WWII and the Korean War. He was a dedicated Boy Scout leader and a member of Eastern Light Lodge F.& A.M., Greene as well as the Joseph P. Mangan Post, American Legion. In addition, he was also a member of The Society of Mayflower Descendants. Tom is survived by two children, Thomas E. Scott, who is also a member of this chapter, and Sue Scott Thornton of Gaithersburg, MD.

Chapter Enjoys Annual Joint Meeting with DAR

Binghamton Chapter members and guests attended our annual joint meeting with the Tuscarora Chapter NSDAR as hosts. The luncheon was held at the Endwell Methodist Church on Saturday, February 17th 2007. The speaker was Dr. Paul Kerr whose subject was "Civil War Surgeon – the Biography of James Langstaff Dunn". There was a good turn out of about sixty of both DAR and SAR members and friends. The pot-roast entrée was, as usual, delicious. As in the past joint meetings, several prospective SAR members were identified and were given membership packets. They will be invited to our meeting in April. We have committed to host next year's joint meeting on Saturday, Feb 16, 2008 at the same location.

Robert Morton Haff, President ■

BINGHAMTON CHAPTER TO HOST SEPTEMBER ESSAR MEETING

The Binghamton Chapter will host the September 22, 2007 meeting of the ESSAR State Board of Managers. The meeting will be at the Best Western Regency, Binghamton, NY starting promptly at 11:00 AM. The Regency is located at One Sarbro Square in downtown Binghamton. The address is P.O. Box 2337 Binghamton NY 13902 and the phone number is (607) 722-7575.

Two entrees will be offered with Garden Tossed Salad topped with Ranch or Italian Dressing served with each.

1) Marinated Chicken Breast with Rice Pilaf.

2) Prime Rib on Toast Points with Oven Roasted Potatoes.

Sourdough Rolls with Whipped Butter.
Coffee, Decaf Coffee and Hot Tea.
Dessert will be Rainbow Sherbet.

There will be Coffee, Decaf Coffee and Hot Tea available starting at 10:00 AM.

This announcement is for those who are not on regular Board of Managers mailing list. The ESSAR Secretary will be sending out a reservation form to all managers for completion and return to the host chapter. Compatriots who are not on the mailing list and wish to attend the meeting can send in a check to the address below. The total cost of the meal is \$17.00 per person. Those not having a meal, the cost is \$5.00 to defray the cost of the meeting room.

Please make the check payable to the **Binghamton Chapter, ESSAR** and mail it along with your choice of entrée, by number, to:

Roger Cargill

**516 Dickson St., Endicott NY 13760-4616
no later than Sept. 15, 2007.**

For those wishing to stay overnight, the Regency will hold rooms for a special price of \$84.00 single/double plus tax until Aug 31, 2007. Please mention SAR when making reservations. For members who wish to travel by bus, the Binghamton terminal is only three blocks from the Regency. Service from the eastern part of the state and the New York City area is provided by Coach USA/Short Line. If anyone is flying in, the Greater Binghamton Airport has taxi service to the hotel.

VALCOUR BATTLE CHAPTER CHARTERED

On Saturday, April 21, 2007, the Valcour Battle Chapter, SAR, was chartered in an impressive ceremony at the Elks Club led by Lt. Col. Peter K. Goebel, President of the Empire State Society of the SAR. Rev. David A. Hockensmith, Past Chaplain-General of the National Society, SAR, opened with the Invocation. The officers of the Chapter were charged with protecting and preserving the Constitutions of the United States and New York State and promoting the aims of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Following the chartering the Empire State Society's Regional Vice President, Duane Booth, presented each member of the Valcour Chapter, SAR with a specially signed copy of the Valcour Battle Chapter commission. Chapter President James T. Hays offered a moving tribute to the SAR and its Mission Statement. New members of the Sons of the American Revolution were welcomed into the organization. In conclusion, Stanley Ransom, G. William Glidden and Euclid Jones led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, the American Creed and the Recessional.

Officers are James T. Hays, Jr., President; Stanley A. Ransom, Jr., Vice-President; Joshua D. Wingler, Secretary; Richard B. Wingler, Treasurer; Duane Booth, Registrar; Euclid H. Jones, Chaplain; G. William Glidden, Historian; David C. Glenn, Genealogist; Craig S. Allen, Webmaster; and Richard W. Ward, Librarian.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR, our sponsoring organization, was represented by George H. Ballard, Sr., President, and Richard H. Fullam, 1st Vice-President, and Past Presidents Lewis O. Slocum and G. William Glidden.

Following lunch, the 55 persons in attendance heard historian David C. Glenn tell the story of the October 11, 1775 Battle of Valcour, led by General Benedict Arnold. David Glenn drew upon his knowledge of the ships and their actions and also the weather conditions to describe how Arnold's ships engaged the enemy until dark, losing several ships, then sailed in the dark either through the enemy ships to the south, or else sailed using prevailing winds north and around the head of Valcour Island and then south again. The next day the British gave chase, and near Schuyler Island caught up with Arnold's battered fleet. They had been making hasty repairs in order to sail to the safety of Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga, in American hands. A delayed action followed, with the British pursuing the four remaining gondolas south into what is now called Arnold's Bay. With flags flying these ships were run aground and burned. The patriots then proceeded overland to Fort Independence and Fort Ticonderoga. The British gave up the chase and went back to Canada. This year long delay allowed the American forces to enlarge, grow stronger and train to the point where they were able to defeat General John Burgoyne in 1776 at Saratoga. ■

ADONIRAM PARROT GRAVE MARKING



At 2 pm the group gathered at Riverside Cemetery in Plattsburgh at the gravesite of Revolutionary War patriot Adoniram Parrot, 1758-1842. Mak Keyes, Vermont Color Guard Commander, presented the colors. Arnold E. Fallon, Jr., President of the Vermont Society of the SAR, and 4th generation great grandson of Corporal Parrot, unveiled an SAR grave marker at the grave.

Remarks on the life and service of Adoniram Parrot were offered by David Bohrer and Diane C. (nee Fallon) Boylan, both 4th generation great grandchildren. Susanne Jones, Vice-Regent, Saranac Chapter DAR, read a statement from Parrot's great-great granddaughter, Shirley Veelle, Past Regent of the Santiam Chapter, DAR, of Lebanon, Oregon.

Joshua Wingler led a formation of costumed Minutemen and the Peru Militia in a military celebration, including an Honor Guard and the firing of matchlock muskets. Stan Ransom sang Parrot's favorite song, the satirical "Noble Lads of Canada." Rev. David Hockensmith led the group in prayer. Wreaths from the Valcour Battle Chapter and the Saratoga Battle Chapter were placed before the gravestone by James T. Hays, George H. Ballard, and Richard H. Fullam. Dr. Allan Walker, a kilted bagpiper, played "Amazing Grace." A truly memorable occasion. ■

KID'S EYE VIEW OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was the English put tacks in their tea. Also, the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps. Finally the colonists won the War and no longer had to pay for taxis. Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two signers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand.". Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead. ■



Front Row left to right - Lewis Slocum, G. William Glidden, Duane Booth, Lt. Col. Peter K Goebel, Rev. David Hockensmith, Stanley Ransom, James Hays, Valcour Battle Chapter President

Second Row left to right - Joshua Wingler, Herman Brown, David Glenn, Craig Allen, Arnols Fallon, Jr., Richard Wingler, Euclid Jones, Richard Ward, George Ballard, Richard Fullam, Harold Heald, Alexander Gifford, David Arms

REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS' PHOTOS

Many veterans of the American Revolution sat for photographs in the mid-nineteenth century. Obviously, these men were quite elderly by the time photography was widely available. Nationally-recognized photography expert Maureen Taylor is looking to gather these pictures together; her project is called "The Last Muster."

Maureen specializes in dating photographs based upon clothing and other clues in the picture; she also does restoration work and is a frequent speaker at national and regional genealogy events. She is the author of *Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs* (2nd edition, Family Tree Books, 2005), *Preserving Your Family Photographs* (Betterway, 2001) and *Scrapbooking Your Family History* (Betterway, 2003).

Maureen recently stated: "It'll take an army of volunteers to find all the members of the Revolutionary War generation that had their picture taken. We need your help! If you own or know of a photograph of an individual who served in the American Revolution, was born during the War, or who was married to a soldier, please let us know. Your assistance is needed."

A full description of her project and several articles can be found at:

<http://www.maurentaylor.com/projects.html>

Maureen has also started a "blog" (web log) that describes her efforts, details newly discovered items and also gives a lot of other great information. One recent article discusses the differences among Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes, Tintypes or Ferrotypes, and Cartes de Visite (CDV's).

Her educational blog is located at:

<http://www.lastmuster.blogspot.com>

Note: previous article submitted by Dennis F. Marr

THE BATTLE OF BENNINGTON

The Battle of Bennington which was fought in the area of Walloomsac, New York on August 16, 1777 is notable, not only because it was a significant American victory (and there were not many of those), but also because it helped set up the stage for the American victories at Saratoga in October of that year.

The Walloomsac Battle Chapter is working in concert with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Town of Hoosick, NY, the Brigade of the American Revolution and the Living History Association on plans for the commemoration of the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Bennington. The Commemoration will include battle reenactments and other appropriate events. These activities will be held at the New York State Bennington Battlefield Historic Site located on NYS Route 67 a few miles east of the intersection of NYS Routes 67 and 22 in North Hoosick, NY on Thursday evening, August 16, Saturday, August 18, and Sunday, August 19.

We are inviting all Empire State Chapters and individual members to participate. This would include taking part in the formal ceremony on Saturday, August 18 (color guard, wreath laying, etc.), having a chapter display or helping us out by manning the S.A.R. display which we are planning. Your participation does not have to be extensive. I only need to know in what way you wish to participate by 13 August 2007.

It should be noted that 16 August is a Vermont State holiday, and that on Saturday, August 18 and Sunday, August 19 Bennington, Vermont will be holding its Battle Day events. There are some motels in the area for those who wish to stay over.

If you have any questions, please contact:

John Sheaff (518) 677-5562 . ■

STONY POINT CHAPTER HAS A BUSY MONTH

The Stony Point Chapter, for the first time in recent memory, was able to “field a Color Guard” for the Memorial Day Parade in Stony Point on May 28th, thanks to the efforts of several of our members as we honored members of all wars on that occasion. It was great seeing many of our former inactive members “stepping up to the plate” so to speak to enable the Stony Point Chapter once again to become more ACTIVE with the community at large. We formed up at Mount Rest Cemetery and marched the nearly two miles to the Stony Point Town Hall, where one of our youngest and newer members, Tom Hansen, laid the SAR wreath during the heavily attended ceremonies.

On Sunday, June 10th, a smaller SAR contingent including Tim Phillips, Barry Brooks and Martha and Gene Erickson attended a very moving Elks 877 Lodge Flag Day Ceremony. With rain impending, the ceremony was moved from the front lawn of the mansion on the Hudson to the banquet room on the second floor. The Haverstraw Elks have been extremely supportive of the Stony Point Chapter, and it was an honor to be invited to that ceremony. A contingent of cub scouts marched in each carrying a different U.S. Flag representing many of the revolutionary war flags before our current version was adopted. A U.S. Army major gave the main address with many veterans including our own “2007 Rockland County Veteran of the Year, Gene Erickson wearing his red, white and blue sash over his marine corps jacket.



(front) L-R Charles Goetschius, Noel Haskell
(back) L-R- El Carhart, Timothy Phillips, Barry Brooks, Gene Erickson.

On Saturday, June 16th, the Stony Point Chapter of SAR along with the Shatemuc Chapter DAR, held their 3rd joint Annual Flag Retirement Day at Stony Point Battlefield. Others participating in this ceremony included the Iwo Jima Division Junior ROTC Navy Sea Scouts, under Ensign David Mosconi, Julia Warga, site manager of Stony Point Battlefield and her staff, and Cub Scouts from Suffern, NY, under the leadership of Ann Martelle. Rockland County District Attorney Michael Bongiorno, Senator Thomas Morahan, and our own Compatriot Gene Erickson (Rockland County’s Veteran of the Year for 2007) were also present at the ceremony.

Flutist Peter Geldrick played Revolutionary War Music as the Sea Scouts and Boy Scouts marched into the area next to the museum where the re-enactors’ tents have a permanent camp for the summer. After the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by the DAR chaplain, the DAR, under Regent Martha Erickson, presented the NSDAR certificate and medal to Sea Cadet Thomas Klapack for his outstanding record in military training, scholastic achievement, dependability, and good character.

The Sea Scouts then carefully disassembled the flags being retired. Once the blue flag field of stars was removed, the flag is no longer a flag. The red and white stripes are then carefully removed as a list of states was read by SAR member Tim Phillips in the chronological order that each state joined the union. The Sea Scouts then carefully handed me a stripe representing that state and at that moment I committed that stripe to the flames. The ceremony was very meaningful and hopefully very impressive to those in attendance. Two members in attendance that had brought flags for retirement won the raffle for a free flag that had flown over the capitol in Washington D.C.



L - R Tom Hansen, El Carhart, Ernie Metcalf, Belding Clearwater, Barry Brooks, Tim Philips, Jim Clearwater

Refreshments after the service were provided by the Daniel De Clerque Daughters of the American Colonists and the Lt. Abraham Onderdonk Children of the American Revolution. Plans are being made for the 4th. annual Flag Retirement in June 2008. *Barry Brooks, President* ■

WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM CHAPTER

The Westchester-Putnam Chapter spring luncheon and annual meeting was held May 19, 2007 at the Brasserie Swiss Restaurant in Ossining. Our guest speaker was Pat Galfano, who described how she initiated the restoration of the Mothers of the Revolution monument in Continental Village, near her home in Putnam County. The monument was originally unveiled and dedicated on October 9, 1921. The cost of the refurbishment was roughly \$1,000 for plantings and materials and included donations of time and materials from many sources. Tallix Foundry in Beacon refinished the plaque at a reduced cost, the Phillipstown Highway department provided a labor crew. The Continental Village Property Owners Association, the town of Phillipstown and the Continental Village Park District also assisted. The monument was rededicated October 9, 2006, 229 years after the burning of the Continental Army's storehouses, arsenal, loaded wagons and mill by the British. The inscription reads: In Memory of The Mothers of the Revolution, who watched and prayed while our fathers fought that we may be free. "They also serve who only stand and wait." The chapter recognized Pat's extraordinary undertaking by presenting her with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.

The chapter officers for 2007-2008 will be: Ken Stevens, President, Walt Thompson, Vice President and Registrar, Bill Brown, Secretary, Gordon Miller, Treasurer, Allan Warnecke, Genealogist and Stewart Manville, Historian. The chapter is pleased to welcome its newest members: Kurt Ross Brown, a new member and Colonel Kenneth Brown, a dual member from Connecticut who recently moved to Westchester. Net chapter membership increased by two in the year to 55, the second consecutive year of growth. We currently have six applications and three junior applications pending at National, so this year is already showing great promise. Thanks to Empire State database coordinator Duane Booth, who has assisted applicants that have been contacting the National and State societies directly.

The chapter joined in the festivities marking the 230th Anniversary of the ride of Sybil Ludington at Carmel on April 28. Local



Restored Monument to the Mothers of the Revolution



Chapter President Kenneth Stevens presents the Society's Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate to Pat Galfano

historical organizations were invited to participate, we shared a table with the Enoch Crosby Chapter of the DAR with displays of our activities. Copies of the Empire Patriot were distributed as well as membership applications to interested parties.

Kenneth Stevens , President ■

COLUMBIA-MID HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER

The Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter SAR is the first chapter in the ESSAR to receive a Wal-Mart's Grant Funding donation. The donation was received from the Wal-Mart Store in Hudson, NY store. The grant money will be used for the grave flag markers and flags for 42 Revolutionary War Soldiers in the Hudson City Cemetery in Hudson, NY. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for August 11, 2007. Prospective SAR member Vincent J. Wallace spearheaded this event along with SAR Chapter member, Ralph Avery, and his wife, Dottie, a DAR member of the Hendrick Hudson Chapter.



The bronze grave marker from the Veteran Administration for the Mills Mansion Cemetery ceremony has been ordered by Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Alan Coon. Vice President Bud Weaver and Chapter member Tim Middlebrook are assisting Mr. Coon as coordinators for the project. The ceremony is planned to take place in July or August 2007 in Staatsburg, NY.

The remaining 2007 Chapter ceremonies and events are continuing to progress as planned with two exceptions; the Indian Encampment at Pawling, NY, and the Old New Paltz Day at New Paltz, NY, are being dropped from our schedule as of this time. Further evaluation of the two events will be for discussion by the Chapter Board of Managers.

Our Chapter has been formally invited to participate in the Honoring of Governor George Clinton on Memorial Day weekend in 2008. Local and state government officials, local and state SAR and DAR officials, other organizations, bands and honor guards will participate in this event. Meetings will continue through 2007 and 2008 by the Heritage Center of the City of Kingston and we have been invited to attend all the meetings.

Revolutionary War general, statesman, and lawyer George Clinton was elected governor of New York for six successive terms, 1777 to 1795, and was called the Father of New York State. Winning support for the principles of the Revolution, Clinton brought an end to Indian problems in western New York. Born in 1739 in New York, Clinton studied law and was elected to the Provincial Assembly in 1768, gaining a reputation as a defender of freedom of speech and the press. Appointed brigadier-general in 1775, Clinton was elected governor in 1777. An early opponent of the Constitution because of his belief in state sovereignty, Clinton was forced by popular demand to agree to its acceptance. Elected governor for the seventh time in 1800, he later became Vice-president during the terms of Presidents Jefferson and Madison (1804-1812). Clinton died in Washington, D.C. in 1812.

Rodney S. Andrews, President ■



Chapter President Rodney S. Andrews presenting chapter member, Lloyd M. Loop the SAR Meritorious Service Medal at the March 31th chapter meeting.



Tattoo Drumline at West Point. Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter member, Cadet Christopher Anderson is centered behind the bass drum.



On May 8, 2007, a delegation representing the SAR presented a framed set of SAR Jamestown Commemorative Medals to President George W. Bush in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Jamestown . From left to right are: Secretary General Bruce Wilcox, Theresa Wilcox, VASSAR President Joe Dooley, President Bush, President General Nathan White, Wanda White, Former President General Roland Downing and Norma Downing



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